

Yarralumla Residents' Association Submission to the NCA about the Griffin Legacy Plan for Yarralumla Bay

Introduction

We welcome the opportunity as stakeholders in the Yarralumla Bay Recreational Hub Plan to contribute our ideas about what we would like it to include. We value the fact that we live in a lakeside suburb and we use the lake foreshore extensively. One of the things that is most important to us is the feeling that our suburb is connected to the lake. It is connected by the sight lines from the school through the oval and the open green space which is part of the recreational hub down to the lake itself. It is also connected by the fact that the lake is accessible along the foreshore and there are relatively few barriers. **We are very keen to retain and strengthen this connection** and we feel that many of the proposals in the plan so far will do just this.

We believe that the people of Canberra in the foreseeable future will use the lake more and more for recreation. The recent bushfires have made many of the recreation areas immediately surrounding Canberra less attractive and increasing petrol prices may drive more people to relax and pursue their recreational activities in the city. **We value the peace and serenity and informal** treatment of the lake in Yarralumla and suggest that other users would feel this as there will be other lake areas in the plan and already existing which are urban or more formal.

The area of the recreational hub is surrounded by residential development so it is important that the activities proposed do not cause problems for the surrounding homes in terms of increased noise, pollution or decrease of safety.

Our suggestions

- Locate the bike and boat hire facilities near the end of the proposed pedestrian bridge. This is because most users cycle around the central basin to see the important buildings and monuments of the National Capital. This would allow traffic to access the hire facilities from Alexandrina Drive and not through the suburb.
- There would then be a gradual transition along the lake foreshore from car parks and whatever buildings are necessary for the hire facilities to the relative informality of Yarralumla Bay.

- All mature trees should be preserved and the area should feel continuous with Weston Park and Westbourne Woods. New plantings should be soft, informal and appropriate for our increasingly dry climate.
- We support the NCA's proposal to create smart ponds on the eastern side of South Yarralumla Bay Park in place of the existing concrete drain. We think the ponds should be landscaped with appropriate low growing trees and shrubs to preserve the sightlines and there should be paths and opportunities for model boats to sail on them. The feel should be as in Commonwealth Park.
- The bridge on Alexandrina Drive should be widened for aesthetic and safety reasons..
- The bike path should not cross the road twice as it currently does and we think that there should be some pedestrian crossings across Alexandrina Drive.
- The swimming area should be improved with better weed control and the existing hilled landscaping should face the foreshore.
- The swimming enclosure and pontoon should be retained.
- The open area in the South Yarralumla Bay Park should be retained for activities such as kite flying, balloon landing, informal sports matches, jogging etc.
- The existing leases should remain as sailing and rowing clubs and should remain within their current footprint. They should stay at their one storey level. There should be a right of way along the lake foreshore in front of them and a walking path if that can be achieved within the context of their needs for launching etc. Visitors and users would like to feel the proximity to those "messing about in boats"
- There should be public access to all the areas where the leases currently are.
- The existing leases should not be allowed to become commercial restaurants, hotels or bars. There is plenty of that kind of development in the proposed West basin development and this area should be for active recreation and peaceful enjoyment. We are concerned about current use of the sailing club for loud night time parties with amplified music.
- The bike path should be retained and in some places of heavy traffic there should be a separate walking track.

- The wetland shoreline should be preserved in front of Brown Street and to the west of the sailing club. It is a habitat for wildlife and a resource for canoers and kayakers.
- Somewhere near the recreational hub we would like to see a designated dog walking area with bags and bins for cleaning up.
- The existing jetty, the heritage cottage near the police building and the pontoon in Yarralumla bay should be preserved for heritage reasons and where suitable there should be signage about the history of the place and the wildlife which inhabits it.
- We would like to retain the ban on motor boats as their presence would have an adverse effect on all the activities proposed.
- We would like the following activities to be encouraged and provided for triathlons, jogging, cycling, walking, picnics, swimming, windsurfing canoeing, fishing, sailing.
- There should be some provisions for disabled persons access..
- Car parks should be adequate, discreetly situated and well landscaped.
- Alexandrina drive should remain a scenic and peaceful drive so it should be kept in its present fairly narrow and winding form.
- Members have differing opinions on the desirability of the ferry stopping at the hub.

Concerns about the development

- We are concerned that there will be more buildings in the hub area.
- We are concerned that activities under the purpose clause “entertainment” may involve amplified music and large crowds and be unsuitable for a venue so close to residential areas.
- We are concerned that the lessees will sell their leases to groups who want to set up large and inappropriate restaurants hotels and clubs.
- We are concerned that if the development is too large it will bring huge numbers of cars through the suburb whose streets are not suitable.

People represented by this submission

This submission was written by a subcommittee of the Yarralumla Residents’ Association and the framework of the submission was circulated to members for their comments.